

American Veterinary



Medical History Society

Alphabetical List of AVMHS Time-Bites

Published or in preparation for posting on the Veterinary Information Network (VIN)

2009 to date

Last updated 2023-Aug-30

TITLE (Location, Year)	DATE PUBLISHED	FOCUS
Adulteration of Lard (England, 1853)	2010 March 22	Provides a mid-19 th century example of adulteration that can occur in feeds, medicines, and other products.
Adlar Aujeszky and the Mad Itch (Massachusetts, U.S.A., 1847)	2010 September 16	Describes a case of itching in a cow that later became known as Aujeszky's Disease named for the doctor who studied it.
Aesculapian Staff or Caduceus? (Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A., 1970)	2019 February 26	Describes the long campaign to recognize the true symbol of medicine in the AVMA's seal.
Alexander D. Langmuir MD, 1910-1993 – A Friend of Veterinary Medicine (Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A., 1949)	2010 November 29	Investigates Dr. Langmuir's pivotal role in improving disease surveillance and investigation, including zoonotic diseases.
America's Father of Veterinary Medicine: Benjamin Rush (Philadelphia: U.S.A., 1807)	2011 July 15	Underscores Dr. Rush's promotion of the value of animals and the need for studying animal diseases.
America's First Laboratory Animal Veterinarian (Rochester, MN, U.S.A., 1915)	2017 January 20	Describes the hiring of Simon D. Brimhall VMD by the Mayo Clinic as the first laboratory animal veterinarian in America who duties were similar to today's specialists.
Anatomical Theatres as Public Entertainment (Leiden, Holland, 1597)	2011 March 11	Describes early European anatomy theatres with public dissections of people and animals.
Anesthetizing Dolphins (California, U.S.A., 1964)	2010 February 5	Presents the pioneering work of Dr. Sam Ridgway in understand how to anesthetize marine mammals.
Aristotle on the Comparative Anatomy of Animals (Greece, 350 BC)	2019 February 26	Talks about Aristotle's extensive dissection of animals and description of function related to comparative anatomy.
Ashoka: Animal and Human Medicine (India, c. 259 BCE)	2014 May 16	Describes how the ancient Mauryan King Ashoka established hospitals and cared for animals as well as people.

Astor House: Origin of the American Veterinary Medical Association (New York, NY, 1863)	2013 March 25	Describes the location and first meeting at which the AVMA was founded during the U.S. Civil War.
Azoturia Blows in with the Great Blizzard (New York, New York, U.S.A., 1888)	COMING SOON	Describes the incidence of azoturia (rhabdomyolysis) in urban working horses idled due to the major blizzard in the Northeast in 1888.
Babesiosis: Protozoan Disease Jumps the Species Divide (Romania, 1886)	2013 March 26	Provides an example of a tick-borne illness first discovered in Romanian cattle and studied by Dr. Victor Babes that has become a concern as a human parasitic disease.
Before EKC--The Mechanical Pulse (Hanover, Germany, 1908)	2018 January 18	Shows how veterinarian Bernard Malkmus recorded the pulse of horses with a Marey's sphygmograph device.
Big Trouble with Horse Manure (New York, New York, U.S.A., 1881)	In Preparation	Talks about problems with tons of horse manure in 19 th century cities
Blood-letting and the Death of President George Washington (Mount Vernon, Virginia, U.S.A., 1799)	2010 January 4	Describes how the once common practice of blood-letting in people and animals contributed to George Washington's death.
Canine Tonsillectomy (Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 1910)	2009 December 19	Presents an early woman veterinarian who demonstrated a tonsillectomy procedure on a dog.
Cannabis for Colic: Experience of 19th Century Practitioners (Omaha, Nebraska, 1891)	2016 May 11	Talks about Dr. SESCO Stewart's experience in recommending the use of cannabis for equine colic patients.
Carriage Houses and Horse Stables (U.S.A., 1850-1920)	2010 July 23	Gives examples and ways to identify carriage houses that were once common behind Victorian houses before automobiles.
Coping with Summer Heat in the City (New York, NY, 1868)	2014 March 21	Covers the need for humane treatment of urban working horses through Dr. John BUSTEED's advice for treating heat stroke.
Did Edward Jenner Use Horsepox for His Smallpox Inoculations? (England, 1798)	In Preparation	Provides recent evidence for inclusion of horsepox in Edward Jenner's smallpox inoculations
A Disease Can Be Transmitted Through a Tick (Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 1889)	2011 April 20	Describes the significant discovery by Dr. COOPER CURTICE and others that arthropod ticks can transmit disease.

Dr. Alexandre Liautard (1835-1918): A French Professor in America (New York, NY, 1860)	2013 April 9	Presents the contributions and attributes of Dr. Alexandre Liautard, originally from France that generated reverence from his students and the veterinary profession.
Of Dogs and Men: A Life-Saving Discovery (Toronto, Canada, 1921)	2012 December 8	Focuses on the role of dogs in the discovery of life-saving insulin by Canadian scientists in treating diabetes.
Dr. Huidekoper's Guide to the Cat (New York, New York, U.S.A., 1895)	2014 September 28	Examines an early book on cats written by a New York City veterinarian on the occasion of the first U.S. cat show.
"Dr. Louis [sic] H. Quitman Wounded by Cabaret Singer; May Die" (Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 1917)	2019 June 6	Presents the personal misfortune of a young veterinarian in Chicago associated with the prominent Quitman veterinary family.
Dr. Monro's "Contrivance" for Bloating Cattle (Edinburgh, Scotland, 1793)	2018 October 24	Tells how Alexander Monro Secundus MD came to invent a leather-wrapped tube for relieving bloat in cattle
Dr. Stader's External Fixation Device (Ardmore, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., 1937)	2010 June 24	Examines the development and importance of Dr. Stader's invention in treating fractures in animals and people.
An Ebola Filovirus Is Discovered in the U.S.A. (Reston, Virginia, U.S.A, 1989)	COMING SOON	Describes the discovery of an Ebola virus in Reston, Virginia and efforts to control it.
Eclipse and the London Veterinary College (England, 1764)	COMING SOON	Gives background on the famous Thoroughbred racehorse, Eclipse, his anatomy, and fate of his skeleton.
Eleanor Roosevelt on Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication (New York, New York, U.S.A., 1935)	2018 May 6	Shares First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's praise for the success of the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry's "Accredited Herd Plan" to test for and eradicate bovine tuberculosis conducted by participating veterinarians across the country.
Eradicating Bovine Tuberculosis—One Intradermal Injection at a Time (United States, 1920s-1930s)	2019-collars September-20	Explains the value of an intradermal injection of tuberculin for testing cattle for tuberculosis.
Eradicating Parasitic Screwworm Flies (Florida and Texas, U.S.A., 1938)	2021 November 11	Describes the effectiveness of a USDA program that released sterile screwworm flies that eradicated a devastating livestock disease.
Establishing the First Veterinary School at Lyon (Lyon, France, 1761)	In Preparation	Gives the background for the establishment of the first veterinary school at Lyon, France in 1861.
Examining the Chest: The Invention of the Stethoscope (Paris, France, 1816)	2016 July 22	Describes why and how René T. H. Laënnec invented a means of amplifying heart sounds by means of a wooden tube that

		would become one of the most commonly used medical diagnostic instruments known in modern medicine.
First English Use of “Veterinarian” (London, England, 1646)	2019 June 6	Presents Sir Thomas Browne’s use of the word to describe “good veterinarians” in 1646.
First Experiences with Sulfanilamide (Quebec, Canada, 1938)	2010 January 12	Provides an example of how sulfanilamide came to be one of the first antibiotics for human and animal use.
The First Recorded Veterinarian (Indus Valley, India, 1800 BC)	2010 May 12	Describes the work of the first veterinarians recorded in history in India.
14th Century Advice on Veterinary Care for Hunting Hounds (France, 1387)	2009 December 11	Presents care of greyhounds and other hunting dogs in Gaston Phoebus’ illustrated Medieval book on hunting.
Free Tuition for Veterinary Students (U.S.A., 1932)	2010 July 10	Shows how tuition was once free for students entering veterinary medical schools.
From Sweet Clover Disease to Life-Saving Anticoagulant (Plains of Northern United States and Canada, 1920s)	2017 July 11	Presents the role veterinarians had in combating sweet clover disease in cattle (hemorrhagic septicemia) and how that led to the discovery of dicumarol in 1940 by biochemist Karl Paul Link in Minnesota, and other anticoagulants, such as WARFarin.
From Whence Cometh Theriogenology (Madison, Wisconsin, 1970)	2019 June 6	Gives background of how the word theriogenology became the single, etymologically correct term for all aspects of animal reproduction
Glanders: a Legacy of the American Civil War (United States, 1861-1865)	In Preparation	Talks about how highly contagious glanders was a terrible legacy for horses after the American Civil War.
Ham, the Space Chimpanzee (Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S.A., January 31, 1961)	COMING SOON	Tells how veterinarians contributed to Ham’s training and first flight into space
Harvard University’s Short-Lived Venture in Veterinary Education (Boston, Massachusetts, 1882-1903)	2010 December 21	Describes the rise and fall of Harvard University’s short-lived veterinary school.
Helmholtz’s Augen-spiegel (Konigsberg, Germany, 1851)	2011 October 2	Presents the development of the ophthalmoscope by Dr. Helmholtz which would significantly change diagnostic medicine for people and animals.

The Historic Auzoux Horse: A Revolutionary Anatomic Teaching Aid (Paris, France, 1846)	2014 March 12	Shows how horse and other models made of papier-mache by Dr. Auzoux were revolutionary teaching aids.
The History of Canine Diabetes Mellitus: From Barely There to Modern Standards of Care (Ithaca, NY, 1922)	2013 January 16	Follows the changes in insulin for dramatically improving the control of canine diabetes.
Hobday's "New" Small Animal Infirmary Ideas (London, England, 1900)	In Preparation	Tells how Sir Frederick Hobday was one of the first to set up an infirmary specifically for dogs and cats from which led the way for today's small animal practices.
Horsehair Suture: From the Civil War to the 20th Century (Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., 1875)	2017 October 25	Provides description of the "discovery" of horsehair for suturing by human surgeons in the late 19th century and its use out of necessity during the American Civil War when silk and other materials were unavailable.
Horses as Heroes in the Fight Against Diphtheria (Europe, 1883 and New York, New York, U.S.A., 1895)	2017 Mar 9	Describes how the serum of horses was used to combat diphtheria and provides an example of serum production in New York City.
Horses Were Recuperating in their Stalls While Boston Was on Fire (Boston, Massachusetts, 1872)	2017 Feb 15	Mentions that when the Boston City Fire broke out in October, 1872, most of the fire department's horses were recovering from the equine influenza epizootic that swept the country that year bringing commerce and other daily functions to a halt.
House Call Doctor Makes Medicines for Cats (New York, New York, 1930s)	2019 February 26	Tells the story how Dr. Louis J. Camuti, the first house call cat doctor, in New York City began making medicines specifically for cats.
How They Put k/d Into a Can (Edison, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1939)	2010 December 21	Describes how Dr. Morris formulated and first produced a prescription diet for dogs with kidney disease.
How Rubber and Veterinary Medicine Met the Road: Dr. Dunlop's Pneumatic Tyre (Belfast, Ireland, 1887)	2018 January 20	Presents how veterinarian Dr. John Dunlop developed the first successful inflatable tire that significantly advanced motorized transportation.
An "Improved Account System" (Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 1912)	COMING SOON	Provides an example of an "improved" system to keeping track of accounts in veterinary practices.
Intraocular Lens Implantation: From Human to Veterinary Medicine (London, England, 1949)	2014 May 11	Explains how intraocular lens implantation in humans became one of the most important surgical advances for animals as well.

Introducing New Cathode Rays (Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1896)	COMING SOON	Presents the monumental discovery of X-rays for diagnosis with a demonstration at the Ontario Veterinary College in Toronto, Canada in 1896
Invention of a Treadmill in Water (Pennsylvania, U.S.A., 1969)	2010 February 13	Presents how a veterinarian invented and patented a water treadmill for horses.
Is This Correct—Dr. John Doe, DVM??? (East Lansing, MI, U.S.A., 1960 and 2021)	COMING SOON	Recommends the correct way to address a doctor in writing by a comparison of past courtesy and current practice.
Isolation of the Swine Influenza Virus (Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1928)	2010 January 12	Discusses Dr. Richard Shope's role in isolating the virus causing swine influenza.
John Hunter's Contributions to Veterinary Medicine (London, 1780s)	In Preparation	Recognized the many ways surgeon John Hunter contributed to veterinary medicine in the 18 th century and beyond.
Keeping Hypodermic Needles Sharp (U.S.A., 1930s)	2010 September 15	Shows one method for keeping re-usable hypodermic needles sharp.
Lancisi's Rational Campaign Against Cattle Plague (Italy, 1711-1714)	COMING SOON	Provides background on how Lancisi's campaign counteracted the devastation of cattle plague in Italy in the early 18 th century.
Land-Grant Colleges and Veterinary Degrees (Washington, D.C., 1862)	2009 December 2	Describes the Morrill Land-Grant Act's influence on the establishment of university-based veterinary schools.
Lip Tattoos to Identify Racehorses (Pomona, California, U.S.A., c. 1947)	2009 December 9	Points out how a military veterinarian's technique came to become standard practice for identifying race horses.
The Long Search for the <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> Host (North Africa and Brazil, 1908)	2010 August 24	Gives background on how the host for the <i>Toxoplasmosis gondii</i> parasite was found.
Major Harry Colebourn and Winnie-the-Pooh (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 1914)	COMING SOON	Gives the history of the connection between Canadian veterinarian Major Harry Colebourn and the famous real Winnie-the-Pooh black bear.
Mayhew's Technique for Passing Stomach Tubes in Horses (London, England, 1847)	2018 October 4	Shows how a Edward Mayhew developed a technique to employ the under-utilized stomach tube to help horses with tetanus accompanied by his detailed illustrations
The Merciful Man (Massachusetts, U.S.A., 1847)	2009 December 22	Provides 19 th century advice for making animals more comfortable and keeping them healthy.

Milk Fever and Bicycle Pumps (Britain, 1920s)	2009 December 28	Describes changes in treating milk fever from bicycle pumps to calcium therapy.
Millions of Better Daughters: the first American AI Cooperative in New Jersey (New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1938)	2018 May 6	Tells how the first American artificial insemination cooperative organization was started in New Jersey by Professor Enos J. Perry from Rutgers University.
The Mysterious Summer Malady of Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (Southeastern Massachusetts, 1831)	2017 July 11	Reports a mysterious outbreak that killed many horses in 1831 that 100 years later was determined to be caused by an eastern strain of a virus transmitted by mosquitoes via birds to horses and people.
Mystery of the “Blazing Eyes” and “Luminous Muzzle” (London, England, 1901)	2017 Feb 15	Reveals scientific insights behind Sherlock Holmes’ <i>Hound of the Baskervilles</i> mystery.
Naming of the “Cruel Thread Worm” Found in the Southern U.S. (Liberty County, Georgia, 1856)	2017 Mar 9	Tells how <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> (Leidy, 1856) Railliet & Henry, 1911 came to be identified and named.
Napoleon’s “Itch”—Was It Really Scabies? (Paris, France, 1800-1815)	COMING SOON	Answers the question whether Napoleon suffered from scabies in relation to horses in military operations.
The Nobel Prize Goes to...<i>Cavia porcellus</i> (Stockholm, Sweden, 1901)	2017 July 11	Credits guinea pigs (<i>Cavia porcellus</i>) with contributing as laboratory animals in over 20 Nobel Prizes and other scientific research discoveries.
Openings and Wages for New Graduates (Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 1915)	2020 November 20	Gives insight by example of openings and salaries for new veterinarians as of 1915.
Origins of the Veterinarian’s Oath (Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., 1954)	2022-Jun-7	Provides background on how the AVMA’s Veterinarian’s Oath came to be approved in 1954.
Puppies Conceived by Transatlantic Artificial Insemination (London, England & Ithaca, New York, U.S.A., 1956)	11 July 2017	Describes the first successful artificial insemination from a transatlantic shipment of canine semen.
The Oldest Pet Cemetery in the U.S.A. (Hartsdale, New York, 1896)	2010 August 6	Describes the establishment of America’s oldest pet cemetery in Hartsdale, New York.
Parasites Beware—Ivermectin Is Here! (Tokyo, Japan, 1974, and Rahway, New Jersey, U.S.A., 1981)	2018 May 6	Covers how ivermectin was discovered by accident in Japan and its significance to controlling parasites.

Pet Birds Don't Deserve Veterinary Care! (Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 1958)	2010 June 18	Offers improvement for the care of pet birds through efforts by Drs. Mary Dunlap and Margaret Petrak.
Queen Elizabeth's Practical Collar (London, England, 1899)	2020-Mar-29	Indicates how an Elizabethan collar-type device came to be used to prevent animal's irritating wounds while they heal.
Quill Sutures (Georgia, U.S.A., 1943)	2010 June 13	Shows how poultry quills could be used to stabilize wound closure.
How Rabies Came to Terrorize the American Colonies (<i>Virginia, 1753 and Boston, Massachusetts, 1768</i>)	In Preparation	Suggests how rabies in dogs came to terrorize Colonial America.
Revival of the Stomach Tube in Horses (Saint Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., 1904)	2018 October 4	Gives examples of how practitioners in America began using and promoting stomach tubes, including the double tube developed by Dr. Knisely.
Rinderpest through the Ages (Rome Italy, A.D. 376 & 2011)	COMING SOON	Looks at effects of rinderpest outbreaks through the centuries until the disease was finally eradicated in 2011.
Roaring Horses on Both Sides of the Atlantic: A Case of Who Done It First [or Better] (London, England and Ithaca, New York, U.S.A., 1910)	In Preparation	Describes an incident about who should be credited with developing a surgical procedure initiated by Dr. W.L. Williams to correct laryngeal hemiplegia in "roarer" horses.
Sir William Osler – What's in a Name? (Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 1877)	COMING SOON	Presents the life of the noted physician Sir William Osler and his contributions to veterinary medicine in his early years.
Spokane's Last Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak (Spokane, Washington, U.S.A., 1914)	2021 August 2	Talks about a looming outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Spokane, Washington in 1914 and how it was eradicated.
Starting a Veterinary Practice (Hastings, Nebraska, U.S.A., 1949-50)	2011 June 12	Describes how a veterinary practice was established by Dr. Leo Lemonds "in the old days."
Stomach Lavage and Gavage for Dogs and Cats (Houston, Texas, U.S.A., 1924)	2019 October 4	Given an example how Dr. J. Gilbert Horning of Houston, Texas used stomach tubes for feeding dogs and cats
The Struggle Against Consumption (Lille, France, 1921)	2010 August 19	Presents the contributions of two French veterinarians, Calmette and Guerin, in developing the vaccine for tuberculosis widely used today.

The Tenacity of Aleen Cust, MRCVS (England, 1922)	2023-Febrursry-6	Provides insights into the life and trials of Aleen Cust in being formally recognized as the first woman veterinarian in the United Kingdom.
Thomas Jefferson's Efforts to Cure Sheep Scab (Monticello, Virginia, U.S.A., 1809)	2018 January 20	Explains Thomas Jefferson's involvement with sheep scab infestations in Merino flocks that were helping to build the nation in its early years.
A True Veterinary Story from Rural Iowa (Iowa, U.S.A., Early 1900s)	2010 January 3	Tells a "horse" story from Dr. D.E. Baughman's early rural practice in Iowa.
Two-Way Veterinary Radio (Bloomfield, Iowa, U.S.A., 1947)	2009 December 4	Shows how Dr. Rasmussen used a two-way radio for improved communication in his rural veterinary practice.
Unusual Makers of Artificial Eyes for Horses (Lockport, New York, 1848)	2018 January 20	Tells the story of Dr. Lawrence Bristol, a dentist, who made a name for himself in making artificial eyes for horses.
The US Army Camel Corps Experiment (Indianola, Texas, 1856)	2013 April 7	Describes transporting camels and establishing the US Army's short-lived camel corps in the southwestern United States.
A Veterinarian, Ice Rinks, and Artificial Refrigeration [Dr. John Gamgee: The Ice Man] (London, England, 1876)	COMING SOON	Tell how the brilliant Dr. John Gamgee made history in inventing the technology for ice rinks through thermodynamics.
A Veterinarian's Namesake in Arizona (Chandler, Arizona, 1912)	2017 September 22	Gives the background on the creation and naming of Chandler, Arizona after veterinarian Dr. Alexander J. Chandler
"Veterinary" Derived from Latin, but of Uncertain Origin (Rome, 200 A.D.)	In Preparation	Presents uncertainties around the Latin derivation for "veterinary" and "veterinarian."
The Vital Role of Capillaries in Blood Circulation (Bologna, Italy, 1661 and Delft, Holland, 1688)	2013 February 28	Describes how Malpighi's observations and van Leeuwenhoek's crude microscope that explained blood circulation through capillaries.
Washing Blue (Saskatchewan, Canada, 1920s)	2010 February 9	Provides an example of how bee stings could be treated with common washing blue laundry crystals.
What is a Cow-Leech? (England, 10th Century AD)	2019 June 6	Gives the origin of the Anglo-Saxon word later applied to an untrained person who treated cows, with examples of its use through the 19th century

What to Call a Veterinary Degree: VS, DVS, MDV, DVM, MDC...? (United States and Canada, Pre-1930s)	2014 September 24	Talks about the campaign to establish a uniform veterinary degrees before D.V.M. became the standard; include diplomas and biographical information on Dr. Henry Oscar Kelppe.
What's with the Derby Hat? (England and United States, Late 19 th Century)	2014 February 14	Presents background on why many early veterinarians wore derby hats.
Why Chiron—the Centaur? (New York, NY, U.S.A., 1863)	2019 June 6	Gives the background and significance of the half-horse as a symbol of the history of veterinary medicine.
William Withering's Foxglove Diuretic (Birmingham, England, 1785)	2016 June 12	Discusses how English physician and botanist William Withering scientifically introduced digitalis derived from the foxglove plant and its parameters of use to medicine for both human and animal patients.
A Woman Surgeon in China (Dezhou, Shandong Province, China, 1926)	2017 Feb 15	Gives the experience of human surgeon Dr. Lois Pendleton who successfully operated on a horse during her mission in China.
Would "Wheelers" Replace Horse Doctors? (New York, NY, U.S.A., 1896)	2017 March 3	Explains how horses were the supreme source of urban power for transportation until challenged by the bicycle that caused veterinarians concern about their livelihood.
Writing a Newspaper Column (Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, U.S.A., 1961)	2020-Nov-13	Provides an example of one veterinarian's initiative in writing a newspaper column for outreach and client education.